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MULTUM in PARVO;

OR, EVERY MAN

His own VERMIN-KILLER.

CONTAINING

The most effectual Methods of destroying
that mischievous little Animal

T H E R A T ;

AS ALSO THE

MOUSE,
MOLE,
GRASSHOPPER,
ANT,
DORE, or
BLACKCLOCK,

WORMS,
SNAILS,
WEASEL,
POLECAT,
STOAT, and
FOX.

By a F A R M E R,

Who has made it his Study these seven Years.

Printed for R. BALDWIN, No. 47, Pater-noster-
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EVERY MAN HIS OWN VERMIN-KILLER.

MANKIND in general may think it extremely odd for a man to sit himself down to write on so trifling a subject as vermin, but when considered by those who feel the bad effects of not destroying them, I flatter myself they will not think my time altogether thrown away.

We have had numberless treatises on this subject, most of which I have read and followed their directions, but cannot say with such success as I could have wished.

In a late publication the author says, "I shall lay down a concise method to

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destroy

destroy all kinds of vermin ;” the public, in my humble opinion, might as well read for their instruction the history of animals, for he has not given any method of destroying one half of what he has undertaken ; therefore, lest I should be thought guilty of the same error for the sake of swelling the Publication, I will endeavour to avoid those vermin which neither myself nor any other person could ever find a certain method of destroying.

The method that the nobility, gentlemen, farmers, &c. make use of, is to send for a man, known in the country by the name of a Rat-catcher, to whom they pay a stipulated price for every Kat ; the Rat-catcher by this method picks up a good living ; for when not employed, his leisure hours are taken up in catching Rats, or purchasing them alive, which he keeps by him till sent for again, and the morning after he has set his traps, he carries the live Rats with him in a bag, and imposes upon his employer a certain number, perhaps not one of them taken in the traps the night before: therefore I would recommend to those who employ these people,

to

to see the head of every Rat cut off, else he may be assured of paying for one set of Rats brought to his house, half a dozen times. I have known the famous Gipsy Rat-catcher walk fifteen Miles, after setting his traps in the night, to a man who used always to keep live Rats by him to harden his Ferrets, and borrow half a dozen of him for a week; nay, I have been told by his friend the Ferret-man, that he has known him put live Rats into the out-houses of gentlemen (whom he knew would employ him) to breed, so that as soon as the first Rat was discovered, he was immediately sent for, and as soon caught them, without reducing the number; nay, perhaps he encreased them, for his going to and fro gave him an opportunity of conveying more into the building, heavy with young: there are so many tricks made use of by Rat-catchers, that it is almost a thing impossible to guard against them.

Some Rat-catchers have a method of stabbing Rats in thatch of barns, &c. at random with a long spear; if the thatch be old, it shakes down and the water lodges; if new, it leaves it so light that the rain

forces its way through, and rots the under-work, therefore of bad consequence; the only certain method is to fix upon a board the trap, hereafter mentioned, as near to the holes, at the bottom of the thatch, as possible, when the Rats may be as easily taken as upon the ground.

O F R A T S.

WE have in this island four sorts, the Barn, Field, Water, and the House-Rat.

The Barn-Rat is grey upon the back, and called by some the Norway, by others, the Hanover; it is no matter from whence they came; we are clearly convinced, to our sorrow, that every part of the isle is pestered with them; this Rat will not only frequent barns, but ricks, sewers, hen-houses, hog-sties, under-floors in houses, behind wainscots and cielings.

O F F I E L D - R A T S.

THEY are of a brown grey cast, about as large again as Mice; you will find them from October till May, by the shape
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Robert Smith. Ratcatcher's Receipts

for Scenting 20 Drops Oyl of Rhodium 7 grains of Me
Shake them well together, Twist a piece
with it rubb where you w. induce the

for w food. - a Pound of flour 3^{oz} Treacle 6 drops
a Pound of the Crumb of Bread. Whole

to Stop w Holes. a Pint of Sarr 1/2^{oz} Perle Ashes 1^{oz}
mix them well together in a Pan -
& putt in their Holes

or put in w Holes An handfull Salt & pour two Sp
the Hole the Smoke or fumigation w

bits

ins of Musk. $\frac{1}{2}$ un Oyl of Aniseed. in a Phial
is a piece of Paper. Dip it in y^e Phial
duce them to come or y^e Trap & leave it in

6 drops Oyl of Carraways mix them well

Whole or in Pieces - Chaff. Corn &c

les, 1^o 3 Bil of Vitriol, an handfull of Salt
Pan - put some on Paper. Very thick

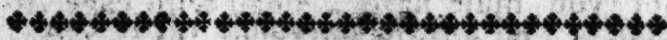
two Spoonfulls Oyl of Vitriol & stop
ation will prevent their coming again

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of their holes, in the corn-fields, which is made round as if cut with an auger : when the farmer sows his wheat, especially upon one ploughing, they will run from one end of the furrow to the other, and eat or carry away the greatest part of the grain, they will likewise run along the drills of Peas; you will often find in the hedge row adjoining the field, where peas are sown, a large quantity growing, as if the man who had the drilling of them had thrown them away, which is the place they lay up their store in. I have known them carry peas the width of ten acres in an open field, which is near 160 ———, as if not able to carry them as far as the hedge, and what they left of these have grown as thick as possible for the circumference of three yards. It will be dangerous to leave traps in open fields, therefore in the canicular days, when the fields are commonly bare, put into their holes a few hemlock seeds, or mix up a little flower with honey, and a little ox-vomit till it comes to a paste, which put into the holes, and it will immediately destroy all the Rats in the Field.

OF WATER RATS.

THEY frequent rivers, banks, &c. I have known them burrow in banks like Rabbits, and to make good their flight, they always have an entrance to their houses from land and water; they live upon vegetables, and are fond of young peas and clover; they may be taken with the same cage and bait as other Rats, only remember that the cage will not swim upon the surface, therefore it must be buoyed up with pieces of cork or wood, so that the holes may be within half an inch of the water; you may drive four sticks into the water and place the cage upon them, but be sure to take care it stands firm: the shortest method would be, if you have not any poultry near the place, to mix up with the bait for other Rats, a little Ox-vomit, which will destroy them as soon as they eat it.



OF HOUSE-RATS.

THESE Rats are black, and frequent the Cielings and wainscots of houses; in out-houses you will find them under the ridge

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ridge tiles, behind the rafters, &c. the place they frequent you will easily find by the blackness of the rafters they run upon, nay you may smell them: the cage and bait, hereafter mentioned, will soon take them, only observe to place the cage upon the rafter, &c. where they run; if too narrow, you must fix a board even with the rafter, to set the cage upon.



The Method of destroying Rats.

SOME make use of steel traps, others of wood traps, called hutches, in which you are never certain of catching above one Rat at the same time, unless they should happen to come in droves, and fight which shall get into the trap first; and for this reason, the Rat which touches the bridge, causes the trap to fall at both ends, and shuts his companions out; besides, to this trap there hangs a great expence, for you must have a small wire cage, to take the Rat from the hutch, if by chance you take two, which is five hundred to one against you, then you must have a larger wire cage to put the taken Rat into,

or

or carry a pail of water with you to drown him, which is not only tedious, but it keeps you too long in the place, which ought to be kept as private as possible, for Rats are as sly as Foxes, and ought to be dealt with in a very gentle manner. The steel-trap is so exposed, that if you take a Rat, his cries will make the rest so shy that you will never catch another in the same place; besides the common method of setting a steel-trap, is to bait it with cheese, bacon, &c. then place it upon the ground where the Rats come; as I before mentioned that Rats are very sly, the trap should be disguised with a little moss, or something of that kind, which is at hand, and nothing exposed but the bait, or if that was covered it would be as well, for they can with ease smell it. Therefore, to be at a greater certainty, and save both expence and trouble, I recommend the following cage, which will answer three purposes, and hold a dozen or more at a time:

Let the wire-maker make a wire cage,
one Yard in length,

eight

eight Inches high,
and eleven Inches wide,

with a * Fall at each end, and one on each side, the side Falls must be made so as not to interfere with the ends, nor opposite each other; when the cage is compleat, let a carpenter make a very thin deal box, as a case for the cage, so near the exact bigness of it, that it may be taken in and out with difficulty, and against the Falls of the wire cage, cut holes in the box; this method may appear odd to many, but a second Rat will never enter a trap or cage, if he sees another confined. A night or two before you intend catching, take the box only, bait it in the manner following, when you find they have eat the bait, put the wire cage into the box, be sure you clean the box, least any thing should obstruct the wire-cage from going to the bottom of the box, then put a little

* N. B. By a *Fall* is meant a wire door, hung at the top instead of the side, and the lower part of this door, or *Fall*, should have the wires extended a little in length, and pointed, which will prevent the Rat from lifting it up with its nose, so as to get out of the cage again.

of

of the bait into the cage. I would recommend a lock and key to the box, (for when traps are set, it most commonly excites people to be continually looking at them) for which you must have staples and a padlock, as an inside lock will prevent the wire-cage from filling the box in a proper manner; never wash the inside of the box, if the dung sticks to prevent the wire-cage going down properly, scrape it with a knife; when you take any Rats drown them in the wire-cage, and when it is dry put it into the box again.

Some may be provided with traps and may not choose to purchase this wire-cage, which however is by much the best, they may bait them with the following paste, and remember that whatever sort of trap is made use of, should be placed as secret as possible; round the trap shake straw or fern, that the Rats may come in private; if you find any holes in Barns, &c. that go through into orchards, fields, &c. then take a red herring, tie a string to the tail and draw it round the building, then through the hole to the place where the cage stands, and the Rats will run it like a
dog

dog footing a hare; if you have any trap but the wire one, bait it with the herring as well as the paste.

Receipt for the Bait.

Take three large spoonfulls of flower,
three spoonfulls of grated white-bread,
one spoonful of treacle,
three drops of oil of carraways,
three drops of oil of anniseed,
six drops of oil of red-herring,
and mix them well together.

It will be proper to put this mixture into a bason or pan, for paper will draw the virtue of the oils away.

When your cage or trap is set, it will be necessary to scent it with the following oils, for which purpose take a phial and put therein,

Half an ounce of oil of anniseed,
Half an ounce of oil of rhodium,
Half an ounce of oil of carraways,
To which add two grains of musk,

then take a feather and rub round the hole of the trap or cage, when done put the feather

feather into the inside of the cage. This receipt will take all Rats excepting the Field-rats, for which you have had a remedy given. Please to observe, that in whatever place you set your trap, to bait it likewise with the food you find the Rats destroy, such as oats, wheat, barley, malt, guts, &c.



OF MICE.

WE have five different sorts, two of which differ only in colour, the Grass-Mouse, and the black Shrew-Mouse, which are very harmless, and live upon vegetables.

The House-Mouse

Is known by every one to be of a very devouring and nasty nature; the shortest remedy to destroy this vermin, is to mix with the feed prescribed for Rats, hemlock seed beat as fine as possible, which set for them at night in a plate or flat pan, which you may take away in the morning; be sure you move all eatables from the place where

where you set the feed; this method will immediately destroy all that feed upon it. Numbers there are who do not approve of any poisonous mixture for fear of accidents, then you may take them alive with a cage made after the same manner as the Rat-cage, only

nine inches long,
four ditto wide,
and three ditto high,

with a fall at each end, with a box as before described for Rats, if in barns the Rat-cage will take them; the cage for Mice must be set with as much care as for Rats, which when done, if it can be avoided, let no one go into the place after you have set it.

The scenting oils may be used as mentioned for Rats.

THE FIELD MOUSE

IS something larger than the House-Mouse, with a red back; he will feed upon corn or flesh, and is very pernicious to farmers

farmers and gardens; he will run along the drills of peas, and under the furrows of wheat land, sowed upon one ploughing, and destroy the greatest part of the seed; in severe weather he will, if possible, get into houses, and destroy every thing in his way.

The cage will take him as before mentioned for the House-Mouse. When you find holes, as if cut with an auger, in the gardens, mix up a little flower and honey with Ox-vomit, which put into the Holes as low as possible, for fear any poultry should get to it, and when the fields are cleared of the corn, in the canicular Days, then do the same, and it will immediately destroy all Mice that feed upon it, or the Rat-food with hemlock, or ox-vomit, will answer the same purpose.



THE MOLE.

THIS vermin is known too well to every inhabitant of this island, therefore it is needless to give a description of it. The common Method of taking the Mole is

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is with traps, but few know how to set them; the certain method is to find the angle where the Mole runs, which press down with your feet, and if in the Morning you find the earth raised up again, there set your trap and you will be certain to take him; when you have set the trap, be sure you cover it and the hole which you broke up, well over, that no light may get into the Angle, for the Mole will certainly avoid the trap if it sees the light. Numbers there are who imagine that a Mole cannot see, which is a mistaken notion, the eyes of the Mole you will find upon the sides of the head, about the size of the point of a large pin, appearing like a small black speck: to prove what I have here said, whenever you find a Sheep (which is often the case) to have trod in the angle, you may observe, when the Mole comes next to run the angle, he will retire from the hole the sheep made, and immediately turn the angle another way; some will set a trap twice in a place, which is a wrong method, for the Mole, if possible, will avoid the place where another was killed. The Mole will heave the earth three times in the space of twenty-

four hours, some people then make use of a spear.

I would advise the keeping of the Moles taken, for two or three days, till you think you have taken the greatest part in the inclosed field, then cut them in three pieces and put them into the angles as nigh the edge as possible, i. e. open the earth as if you were going to set a trap, and no more will enter the field while any smell remains in the dead pieces. It would be an endless piece of work for a farmer to take Moles by traps upon his outside land in common fields, unless his neighbours would join with him; therefore the only method he can take, is wherever he finds an angle or hill, to clear the earth untill he comes to the hole in which the Mole runs, and put therein a piece of garlick, onion or leek, the smell of which will cause the Mole to quit the earth as if amazed by some sudden shock, when, if you watch the land, you may with great ease kill him. When the farmer sows his seed, before he harrows it in, sow at each end of the acre, and the width of two furrows on each side, the seed of Palma Christi, as thin as possible, and no Mole

will enter the ground on which it grows ; if the water should lie in the furrows, as is often the case, and sometimes upon three or four yards from the water furrow, then sow the seed at your discretion where you are certain it will grow.

The Mole breeds in the month of April, at which time farmers and gardeners ought to be very attentive, for by finding out where they breed, they may not only take the young but the old ones, which may be done in this manner: the hill thrown up will be as big as a bushel, take a spade and dig round the hill a trench below the depth of the angle, stop the holes of the angles on the outside of the trench, to prevent the Mole running, then dig him out with a spade ; be careful when you dig the trench to shake the earth as little as possible.

ANTS OR PISMIRE'S

COMMONLY assemble in Mole-hills ; they will destroy barley, rye, hemp-feed, linseed, and rape-feed ; other grain is either too large, double-skinned, or too

bitter; when you find them in quantities near home, pour hot water upon them; the farmer when he dungs his land, if he uses ashes, lime, or salt sand, he may be certain no Ant will ever stay upon the ground where any of the three is spread.

D O R E S O R B L A C K - C L O C K S

WILL destroy corn before it shoots, after which it will leave it; they do the farmer double injury, for they are not satisfied with destroying the grain, but will pick out the fullest and best corn. The burning of couch, or any other weed that will cause a smoak upon the land, will drive them away; or if you sow sharp lime with the grain, the smell will affect them, and if they eat the grain that has touched the lime, it will immediately destroy them.

W O R M S

ARE the next destroyer of all kinds of grain; for they take it when the Dore or Black-Clock quits it, which is
at

at the sprouting, when the ground hath rotted it, and the milky substance is breaking open the upper husk, it shooteth forth in little white threads at both ends; then the Worm feedeth extremely, and so by devouring the substance, it prevents its growing out of the earth. Worms may be called the citizens within the earth, they are innumerable, and the loss sustained by them is infinite.

Before the farmer sows his corn, let him take some hemp, boil it in water, and after it has stood for four hours, sprinkle the grain before he sows it, and no Worm will touch it. The smoak of ox dung mixt with straw, and burnt upon the lands, will destroy all the Worms within the depth of the plough: please to observe that all fires made upon the land, should be lighted in the evening, when clouds bid fair for rain, then the smoak will fall upon the earth.

S N A I L S

WILL devour the grain, like the Worms, in the milk, feeding upon the tender white threads which shoot from the seed, and would rise above the earth, being the stalk on which the ears should grow, were it not devoured by the Snail as soon as it breaks through the earth, for they suck the tender sweetness, and deprive it both of nourishment and life. About three weeks after you have sowed your grain, I mean that which lieth long in the ground, such as wheat, &c. sow foot as thin as possible, and no Snail will come nigh it. In France they sprinkle the lees of common oil over the land, which prevents all such vermin coming nigh it.



G R A S S H O P P E R S.

SOME parts of England are much pestered with them: they, like the Snails, destroy the grain after it is sprouted; some people have a notion they do no harm,

harm, but if the farmer will examine his corn, he may soon be convinced to the contrary; for where they have fed, the ears of the corn will be withered and lean, the grain dry and blasted, and no better than chaff; they will feed upon all kind of grain. When the farmer finds them upon his land, his only method will be to boil wormwood, or centuary, in water for two hours, then before sun-rise or after sun-set, with a whisk, sprinkle the corn when just out of the ground with it; any bitter concoction will answer the same end, the Grasshopper being an enemy to any thing bitter.

When we consider well the many obstructions and disadvantages the farmer lays under, through the innumerable quantity of insects and vermin which the corn is liable to be destroyed by, when first sowed, after it is in the ground, when it first appears above the earth, while in ear, (perhaps you may add a blight,) when ripe by the winged race, and when in the barn by Rats, &c. I say when we consider these things, for my part I really wonder we have any corn brought to market.

Nay we have birds which are not satisfied with destroying the corn at one particular time, for they devour it at three different seasons; when first sowed, when it appears above ground, and when ripe; yet some Farmers say they do good; I grant it, they do, when they can be kept to eat Worms only; these are the Crows.

C R O W S

ARE worse than Tithe-men, as they take their tithes at three different times a year for every acre of Land. Some have a method of taking them with a pin crooked and run through Peas, or they keep boys to hallow; but boys are apt to sleep and play, and the neglecting of the land one hour will give the Crows an opportunity of doing more mischief than the boy will do good in twelve months. I recommend the setting of different coloured feathers in a ring about five yards in circumference, in three different parts of the land, and no Crow will come nigh the place. Field-keepers
are

are necessary just before the corn cometh ripe; gunpowder at no other time is of any service unless you add shot and kill them, but some have a notion that crows are shy of powder, and tell you they can smell it, and to shew how far this notion will carry a man—I remember, in the year 1769, that I met a farmer of Middlesex, dressed in his short coat, with every thing necessary for a day's shooting, going only to fire at Crows; I walked with him, and when I came to the field, I found it sowed with marrowfat peas, upon which was stuck numberless sticks ornamented with rags that had been white, which the farmer had changed the colour of by a daily firing; I enquired the reason of his firing at the rags; he told me, that the linen held the smell of the powder for a long time, and that no Crow would come nigh the field whilst the smell remained; but alas! how mistaken was the farmer, for when the peas came up, he found that half the field was destroyed; and to prove how he wasted his time, and that Crows have no objection to powder, (though if you walk with a gun they appear shy, but that is from
your

your sneaking after them,) if you ride on horse-back with a gun in your hand you may come within ten yards of them; Crows building in trees over the powder-mills, which are continually blowing up, is a convincing proof to me that powder hath no effect upon them, for the blowing up of the mills not only shakes the earth, but scents the air for half a mile round. When farmers are pestered with Rooks, as Gentlemen keep Rookeries for the sake of hearing a continual Noise, without the least benefit, and will not destroy them, after repeated complaints, then the farmer must take care of himself, for he may be certain the gentleman will not pay his rent, though his Rookery may in great measure have ruined him; I would then recommend a pound of arsenick beat fine in leather, put it into a tin pot or kettle with half a bushel of barley, or a smaller quantity of each, if your kettle is not large enough, when soaked a night take the barley down into the field the next morning, when you go to dung carts, and round every heap scatter a little barley, the Crows will follow the cart, and by the time they have

have eat it two minutes, you will find them tumbling in the air, and will pitch down as if shot; some will be so strong as to reach the Rookery, but they will die soon after, and the next day you will find them under the trees in a state of putrefaction; by this method, in less than a week, you may destroy a Rookery at the expence of two Shillings.

We have a number of winged vermin, which also pester the farmer, such as Hawks of many different kinds, Magpies, Buzzards, Kites, &c. The only method that can be taken is to shoot them, which you may with ease do by staking a chicken by the leg in your orchard, hide yourself within gun shot, and just before he strikes shoot him; a steel trap, baited with a Rat, Chicken, or whatever you find them devour, will take them.

The

THE WEAZEL

IS something of the Ferret kind, but smaller; it will destroy Rabbits, Chickens, young Ducks, and suck eggs; you may always know when a Weazel has destroyed your Chickens, or sucked your eggs, for they always leave the carcass and shell behind them. You may set the common hutch trap, baited with a dead chicken, or what they destroyed last, and you will be sure of taking him.

The Polecat, Fitchat, Fitchew, or Formet.

THE same animal called by different Names in different Countries; he is of a mischievous nature, will get into hen-houses, and destroy Chickens, Ducks, &c. and if possible carry them away. The best method to take him, will be with a steel trap; observe well the way he gets into the hen-house, and at the hole place the trap, which cover over with earth as light as possible; be sure you place it so that he must

must go over it to get into the hen-house, which do at noon, that the earth may not smell of your hand, and to prevent any thing else from being caught in it, lay a piece of slit deal over the trap, which take off when you go to bed ; you must either watch the trap, or rise before the poultry in the morning to prevent them falling into the snare ; if you do not catch him the first night, cover the trap over as before-mentioned ; if you have not a steel trap, the common hutch will take him, baited with a Chicken, Duck, &c.

THE STOAT

OF all small animals is the worst ; he will run through a whole brood of Chickens in a little time, he will destroy Hares, Rabbits, Pheasants, &c. his method is to catch them by the neck, and suck them to death. I have heard a Warrener say, (the truth I will leave my reader to judge) that he has often found Stoats hanging to the neck of both Hares and Rabbits, and have shot them with great ease

safe while running. If you set the hutch trap, baited with any thing he last destroyed, and place it under a wall or pales, where they run in the night, you may take the Stoat; but observe when you set the hutch, to place a board from each end of it slanting, so that the end farthest from the hutch may be two yards from the wall; thorns, or any thing of that kind, will answer the end, if laid properly, for the Stoat will avoid a trap only, by going a little out of the way, but this method will lead him in by degrees.

T H E F O X.

THIS animal is so sly as to avoid almost every thing that is set for him; when the farmer finds he frequents his yards, the best method will be to examine well which way he comes; if you are in a doubt, take some sand and shake it lightly upon the ground, and in the morning you will find the impression of his feet; there set a steel trap, without any bait, cover it lightly over with earth, which take up with a spade, lest he should smell your hand, and
sift

sift it over the trap ; this you must do in the evening, when every thing else is gone to rest, least they should be taken in it ; if you do not catch him the first night, lay a piece of slit deal over the trap to prevent any thing else getting nigh it ; if you find him shy, take a little flower and honey, mixt with the blood of any fowl or sheep, add ox-vomit or hemlock seed bruised fine, which make up in balls, and place it in three or four different parts of your orchard or yard where he comes, and it will immediately destroy him ; you must be careful how, when and where you put this mixture, for it will destroy every thing that feeds upon it, for which reason you must lay it late at night, and take it up before Sun-rise in the morning.

*How we the
can be dangerous*
F I N I S.
Remedy —

Right over the top; the foot must go in
the evening, when everything is gone
to rest, but it should be taken in it; if
you do not catch him the first night, lay
a piece of the seal over the trap to prevent
anything else getting in; if you find
him like a little flower and honey,
mix with the blood of any fowl or sheep,
and ox-vomit or blood of a dead animal,
which make a good bait, and place it in
a box or box of your own or
chard or yard, where he comes, and it will
immediately destroy him; you must be care-
ful how, when and where you put this
mixture, for it will destroy every thing
that feeds upon it, for which reason you
must lay it late at night, and take it up
before sun-rise in the morning.

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